

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00698 271112Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /068 W  
-----271117Z 010217 /13

R 270747Z APR 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4459  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0698

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IZ, UR  
SUBJECT: IRAQI MEDIA SHUNS ASAD VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. IRAQI MEDIA HAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED VISIT TO MOSCOW  
OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD. SOLE EXCEPTION WHICH HAS COME  
TO OUR ATTENTION WAS VERY BRIEF FRONT PAGE ITEM IN  
TARIQ AL-SHAAB, BAGHDAD DAILY WHICH IS ORGAN OF IRAQI  
COMMUNIST PARTY. EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT WITH WHOM  
WE DISCUSSED THIS ITEM, WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT COMMUNIST  
PAPER FUNCTIONING, AT LEAST ON THIS SUBJECT, WITH MORE  
JOURNALISTIC FREEDOM THAN THE REST OF LOCAL PRESS.

2. BLACKOUT ON ASAD'S MOSCOW TALKS IS SIMILAR TO SCANTY  
TREATMENT OF ARAFAT VISIT TO SAME CAPITAL. IT CONTRASTS  
SHARPLY WITH MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO WASHINGTON  
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00698 271112Z

VISITS OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT, SYRIAN FOREIGN  
MINISTER KHADDAM AND JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN.

3. COMMENT: IRAQ IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT SOVIET  
INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WHICH IRAQ  
OPPOSES. IT IS ALSO UPSET BY EVIDENT SOVIET DECISION  
TO MEND FENCES WITH ASAD IN SPITE OF BAGHDAD-DAMASCUS

FEUD AND BY FACT THAT SOVIET MOVES ARE UNDERMINING  
IRAQI DESIRE TO HAVE A CONTROLLING INFLUENCE ON  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOSCOW AND ARAB WORLD. BY  
CONTRAST, CONTACTS BETWEEN ARAB CONFRONTATION  
LEADERS AND USG ARE HIGHLY PUBLICISED HERE WITH  
APPARENT DESIGN OF BESMIRCHING REPUTATIONS OF ARAB  
LEADERS. WE EXPECT HEAVY AND HOSTILE IRAQI MEDIA  
COVERAGE OF FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT  
CARTER AND ASAD. FIRST SHOT IS A COLUMN IN GOVERNMENT  
OWNED DAILY AL-JUMHURIYA OF APRIL 26. ANONYMOUS  
COLUMNIST CHARGES THAT BE REPRESSION OF PALESTINIAN  
RESISTANCE IN LEBANON, ASAD IS "WRITING IN BLOOD A  
GOOD CONDUCT CERTIFICATE" FOR HIS MEETING WITH CARTER  
IN GENEVA.  
WILEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, CENSORSHIP, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BAGHDA00698  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2685448  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRAQI MEDIA SHUNS ASAD VISIT TO MOSCOW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IZ, UR, (ASAD, HAFIZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9862c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009